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OLC 76-1486

19 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Messrs. Ted Fafaglia and Doug Barrett,
Minority Staff of the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental
Relations, Senate Government Operations Committee,
Re S.2925, the Zero-Base Budget Review Bill

1. Mr. Fafaglia began by reiterating what I had already heard from the Majority Counsel; namely, that the bill was not intended to change existing law or congressional committee power vis-a-vis the authorization/appropriation process. The intent is to force the committees to do what they should have been doing all along--carefully and comprehensively reviewing all Federal programs and activities.

2. Both Messrs. Fafaglia and Barrett assured me that they realized the Agency had special concerns regarding budgetary matters and outside access to our information. At the same time, however, they were of the opinion that it would not be practical to seek a general exemption from the legislation for the CIA. We agreed that an exemption should be attempted if, in our opinion, it is the only way to protect our interests. Rather, they suggested that we identify for them those particular sections of the bill in which it could be made clear that this legislation does not change the status quo concerning the Agency budget and outside access to our information. I disagreed somewhat with their interpretation that the bill as drafted makes clear that it does not change existing law, particularly regarding authorizations and appropriations. I agreed, however, that it would be better if we could take care of our concerns by changing specific language in the bill rather than placing a specific exemption in the bill for the Agency. Such an exemption could be read to imply that the CIA is so special that we are not even in favor of the concept of zero-base review.

3. Mr. Barrett said a new Committee print of the bill would be out tomorrow and that he would make sure a copy is available for our review. It was agreed that after I had a chance to go over the new draft of the bill with other offices in the Agency, I would meet again with them and Messrs. James Davidson and Alvin From, on the Majority staff of the Subcommittee.

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4. Mr. Fafaglia was of the opinion that this bill had a good chance of going somewhere in the Senate this session, but that the full Committee probably would not be able to focus on it until early June.

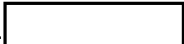


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